



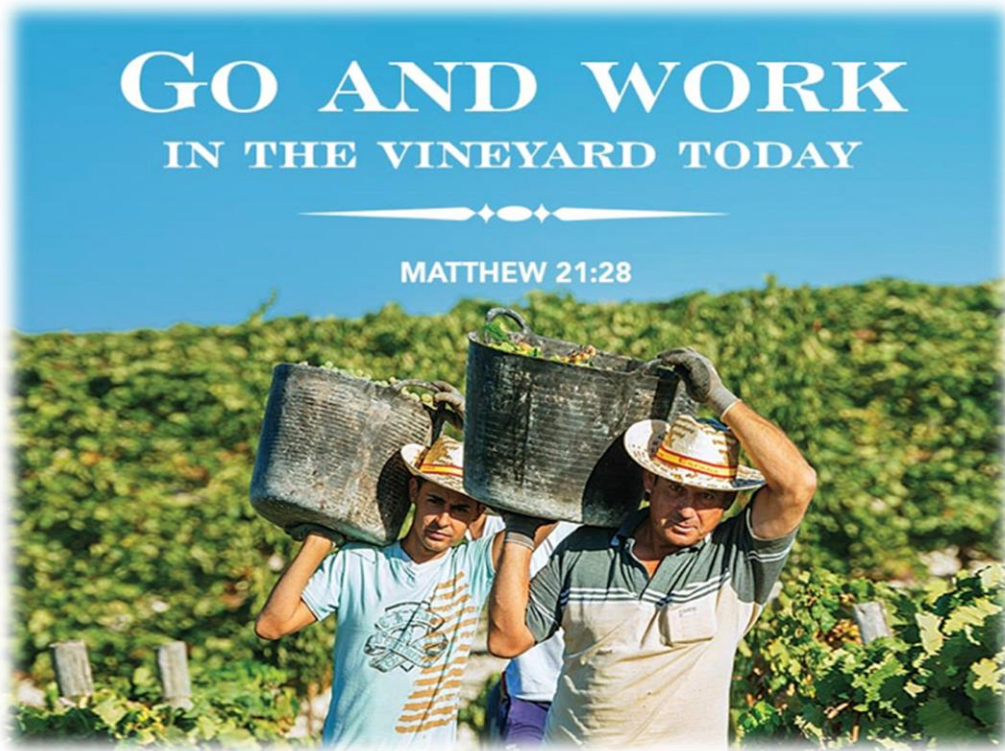
**SERVICE OF THE WORD – SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**SEPTEMBER 27, 2020**

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSES ARE IN **BOLD** TYPE

**GO AND WORK  
IN THE VINEYARD TODAY**

MATTHEW 21:28



PRELUDE

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, † one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.  
**Amen.**

Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Faithful God,

**have mercy on us. We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.**

**We turn from your loving embrace and go our own ways.**

**We pass judgment on one another before examining ourselves.**

**We place our own needs before those of our neighbors.**

**We are slow to share the good news of your gift of salvation.**

**Make us humble, cast away our transgressions, and turn us again to life in you  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God hears the cries of all who call out in need, and through his death and resurrection,  
Christ has made us his own. Hear now the truth that God proclaims:

Your sins are forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ.

Led by the Holy Spirit, may you live each day in freedom  
and joyfully share in the holy work God sets before us in the world.

**Amen.**



1 Dear - est Je - sus, at your word we have come a -  
 2 All our knowl - edge, sense, and sight lie in deep - est  
 3 Ra - diance of God's glo - ry bright, Light of Light from  
 4 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, praise to you and



gain to hear you; let our thoughts and hearts be stirred  
 dark - ness shroud - ed till your Spir - it breaks the night,  
 God pro - ceed - ing, Je - sus, send your bless - ed light;  
 ad - o - ra - tion! Grant us what we need the most:



and in glow - ing faith be near you as the prom - is -  
 fill - ing us with light un - cloud - ed. All good thoughts and  
 help our hear - ing, speak - ing, heed - ing, that our prayers and  
 all your gos - pel's con - so - la - tion while we here on



es here giv - en draw us whol - ly up to heav - en.  
 all good liv - ing come but by your gra - cious giv - ing.  
 songs may please you, as with grate - ful hearts we praise you.  
 earth a - wait you, till in heav'n with praise we greet you.

APOSTOLIC GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

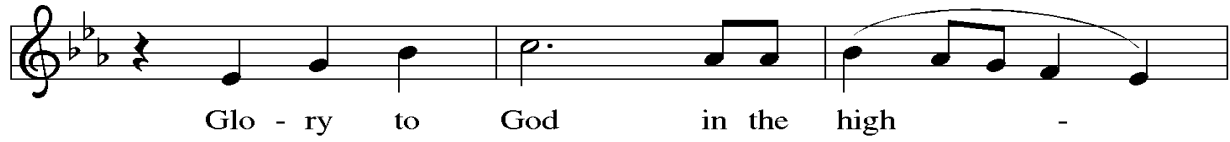
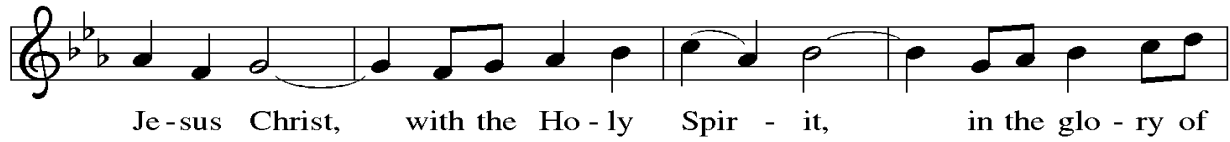
**And also with you.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

“Glory to God”

Glo - ry to God in the high -  
est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.  
Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and  
Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we  
praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus  
Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the  
right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of ten staves of music, each with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The music is in a simple, hymn-like style with various note values and rests. The lyrics are: "Glo - ry to God in the high -", "est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.", "Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and", "Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we", "praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus", "Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,", "Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the", "world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the", "right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer."



PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray together.

**God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

*A reading from the Exodus.*

<sup>1</sup>From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. <sup>2</sup>The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" <sup>3</sup>But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" <sup>4</sup>So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." <sup>5</sup>The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. <sup>6</sup>I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. <sup>7</sup>He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

*The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.*

<sup>1</sup>To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

<sup>2</sup>**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

<sup>3</sup>Let none who look to you be put to shame; rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

<sup>4</sup>**Show me your ways, O Lord, and teach me your paths.**

<sup>5</sup>Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

<sup>6</sup>**Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.**

<sup>7</sup>Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.

<sup>8</sup>**You are gracious and upright, O Lord; therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

<sup>9</sup>You lead the lowly in justice and teach the lowly your way.

*A reading from Paul's letter to the Philippians.*

<sup>1</sup>If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, <sup>2</sup>make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. <sup>3</sup>Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. <sup>4</sup>Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. <sup>5</sup>Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, <sup>7</sup>but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, <sup>8</sup>he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death - even death on a cross. <sup>9</sup>Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup>so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup>and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. <sup>12</sup>Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; <sup>13</sup>for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

*The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*Repeat alleluia*

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

*The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, from the 21<sup>st</sup> chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.***

<sup>23</sup>When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?”

<sup>24</sup>Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. <sup>25</sup>Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ <sup>26</sup>But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.” <sup>27</sup>So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. <sup>28</sup>“What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ <sup>29</sup>He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went. <sup>30</sup>The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go. <sup>31</sup>Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. <sup>32</sup>For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.”

*The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.***





1 O God, my faith - ful God, true foun-tain ev - er flow - ing,  
 2 Give me the strength to do with read - y heart and will - ing  
 3 Keep me from say - ing words that lat - er need re - call - ing;  
 4 When dan-gers gath - er round, oh, keep me calm and fear - less;



with - out whom noth - ing is, all per - fect gifts be - stow - ing:  
 what - ev - er you com - mand, my call - ing here ful - fill - ing—  
 guard me, lest i - dle speech may from my lips be fall - ing;  
 help me to bear the cross when life seems dark and cheer - less;



give me a health - y frame, and may I have with - in  
 to do it when I ought, with all my might—and bless  
 but when, with - in my place, I must and ought to speak,  
 help me, as you have taught, to love both great and small,



a con - science free from blame, a soul un - stained by sin.  
 what - ev - er I have wrought, for you must give suc - cess.  
 then to my words give grace, lest I of - fend the weak.  
 and, by your Spir - it's might, to live at peace with all.

#### APOSTLES' CREED

We now profess the faith we share, using the words of the Apostles' Creed.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the ✚ resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## NEW BIBLE MILESTONE

*Today we celebrate the New Bible Milestone with our 2 year olds, 3rd graders, and 7th graders. Our 2 year olds are receiving a Spark Story Bible to mark their start in Sunday School. Our 3rd graders are receiving a Spark NRSV Bible, which they have explored through their New Bible Milestone class. Our 7th graders are receiving a Lutheran Study Bible to mark their entrance into (and to use during) Confirmation. We rejoice that God's Word is for all of God's people, and we pray that these children and youth will grow in faith as we place the Scripture in their hands.*

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

In all the world, give your church unity. Inspire all the baptized with the mind of Christ. Where the church is powerful and where it struggles, shape us with humility and obedience so that your love may be at work in us. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Your Son took on bodily life in our world, even to the point of death. Preserve and keep your creation, O God. Mend and redeem places that are damaged, especially those damaged by wildfire. May all of creation confess you as Lord. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Turn the nations toward life. Where our ways are unfair, give us new hearts and new spirits. Where sin permeates our cultures and institutions, change our minds, and teach us to place our trust in your authority alone. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Our lives are yours, O God. Defend the lives and welfare of children who are abused or neglected, hungry or exploited, bullied or lonely. Relieve the suffering of those who are ill in body, mind, or spirit especially, Bob, Karen, Neal, Jean, Margaret, Donna, Kay, Yvonne, Eddie, Steve, Henri, John, Bea, Jack, Jill, Eric, Doug, Mary, Jennifer, Frank, Bill, Madeline, Ed, Earl, Barbara, Steven, Kathy, and Ted. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Turn this congregation away from our own interests toward the interests of others. Fill us with your compassion and sympathy. Bless ministries of care in our community; make us into signs of your mercy and justice for our neighbors. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Thank you for those who have entered into the kingdom ahead of us - tax collectors and prostitutes, likely and unlikely, obedient, and slow to learn. By their witness, teach us to confess Jesus Christ as Lord in life and in death. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## LITANY OF PEACE

We joyfully proclaim the reality of the peace that only Christ can provide. His peace is the way he abides with every one of us, showing us that we are beloved. We celebrate his peace, therefore, in this house of prayer, in our homes, among one another, and to every corner of creation. We, the church - the ones who have received his peace - take up the task of sharing the peace of Christ with the world, following his example.

To lands and people ravaged by warfare, and to systems built on injustice and inequality,  
Jesus will be made known: **Peace be with you.**

To our nation, struggling with viruses too many to name,  
Jesus will be made known: **Peace be with you.**

To families torn apart by discord, and to friends separated by disagreement,  
Jesus will be made known: **Peace be with you.**

To servants of God who suffer for righteousness, and to the needy, whose help and hope is but Grace alone,  
Jesus will be made known: **Peace be with you.**

And today, here, and now, the Peace of Christ is with you. **And also with you. Amen.**

## OFFERING

<https://onrealm.org/gracerockhill/-/give/now>

## ANTHEM

“At the Name of Jesus”

Gregg Sewell  
Virtual Choir

## OFFERTORY RESPONSE (*Stand*) “Praise God, from Whom all Blessings Flow”

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise God, all  
crea - tures here be - low; praise God a - bove, ye  
heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

#### OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray together. Merciful God,

**our gifts seem small, but we know you make of them an abundance, just as you do with our entire lives. We long to be fed at your table once more, but in this time of distance, draw near to your children, and let us feast on the Gospel hope you freely share with the world. Accept the offering we bring and strengthen us for service in your name, for the sake of the risen Christ. Amen.**

#### LORD'S PRAYER

United as one church, deployed across a great distance, we unite our voices and join in the prayer that our Lord taught us:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life.  
**Amen.**



1 Voic - es raised to you we of - fer; tune them, God, for  
 2 All cre - a - tion joins to praise you; earth and sky your  
 3 Christ, the song of love in - car - nate, touch - ing earth with  
 4 Spir - it, flam - ing through cre - a - tion, kin - dle faith with -  
 5 How can an - y praise we of - fer mea - sure all the



songs of praise. Hearts and hands we bring in trib - ute  
 works dis - play. Art and mu - sic, gifts you lend us,  
 heav - en's grace, for your liv - ing, suf - f'ring, dy - ing,  
 in each heart. Lift our voic - es high in cho - rus;  
 thanks we owe? Take our hearts and hands and voic - es—



for your gifts through all our days. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 we re - turn to you to - day. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 for your ris - ing, hear our praise! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 through our hands your love im - part. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 gifts of love we can be - stow. Al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia! Tri - une God, to you we sing!  
 Al - le - lu - ia! God, cre - a - tor, source of life!  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Christ, re - deem - er, Lord of life!  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Spir - it, help - er, breath of life!  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Tri - une God, to you we sing!

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You serve as the light of Christ for the world.

**Thanks be to God.**

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